

## AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2, without prejudice to the later filing of the claim, and enter the following amendments:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having ~~at least 95%~~ identity with a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ.ID.NO: 26, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a flea hindgut or Malpighian tubules (HMT) protein capable of eliciting ~~that~~ elicits an immune response against at least one epitope of a flea HMT protein.

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

6. (Previously presented) A recombinant molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 1 operatively linked to a transcription control sequence.

7. (Previously presented) A recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 1.

8. (Previously presented) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 1.

Claims 9-17 (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A composition comprising an excipient and an isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)